

PLANS FOR 1919 SPRING FIELD TRIP OF THE NEW
ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB.

DURING the war the field trips of the New England Botanical Club were temporarily abandoned, the last trip two years ago at the time of great financial demands having an attendance of only four members. Now that more settled conditions are in prospect it is proposed to renew these week-end explorations, which have proved so effective in the past in largely increasing our detailed knowledge of local distribution and in affording a remarkable opportunity for many members who enjoy good botanizing and good comradeship to cooperate.

This spring it is proposed to spend Friday, Saturday, and for those who wish it, Sunday, May 30, 31, and June 1, intensively exploring the spring and early summer flora of southwestern Massachusetts. The proposition is to gather at Pittsfield Thursday evening, when plans for the active field work will be clearly formulated. As in the past, the party will be divided into groups of two or three and assigned definite tracts of southern Berkshire County to explore. Each party is held responsible for the collection of every vascular plant in recognizable condition in the area assigned, a full series of these plants to be turned in to the New England Botanical Club to add to its detailed representation. At the end of the trip each member of the party will be asked to supply to the phaenogamic curator the proper data for label-forms and indication of the number of labels needed and these printed label-forms will be supplied to each member.

Southern Berkshire is somewhat known in midsummer but only very limited areas have been botanized in late spring. The present season with *Hepatica*, *Epigaea*, and others of the earliest flowers expanded in March, promises to be unusually early, so that at the end of May the Berkshire party will find all the interesting material it can care for. The members should take an abundant supply of specimen-papers in which to lay out their daily collections and those who wish naturally will take a supply of driers. By laying out the specimens in pressing paper without many driers the plants can be kept in reasonably good condition for two or three days until the return home, when they will be in condition for final straightening and drying.

The particular object of the late spring exploration of southern Berkshire, besides enjoying the best botanizing to be found in the temperate sections of New England, is to search for the many scores of species which closely approach the Massachusetts border from the west or southwest but which are not yet definitely known within the limits of the state. The region of Berkshire County is geographically and geologically so closely allied to Litchfield County, Ct., to Dutchess and Columbia Counties, N. Y., and to Bennington County, Vt., that

plants which are found in these adjacent counties should certainly be expected in Berkshire County. The list of such species is, as intimated, a large one and from it there have been selected the following easily recognized plants which approach southwestern Berkshire County very closely, some of them being found within one mile of our border and all within a distance of ten, or in a few cases only twelve or fifteen miles, from Mount Washington or Sheffield.

TRIGLOCHIN PALUSTRIS, marshes, Pine Plains, N. Y. (Characteristic of calcareous marshes throughout the Canadian zone but in New England known only from Maine.)

ERIOPHORUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM, peat bogs, Pine Plains, N. Y. (One of the early species, maturing in Maine during May and early June but in New England unknown except in Maine.)

RYNCHOSPORA CAPILLACEA, abundant in calcareous marshes at Pine Plains, N. Y.; also at Salisbury, Ct., and on limy ledges in Vermont. (In northern Maine this species is in recognizable condition during June, although it matures later.)

CAREX CRAWEI, moist fields and meadows, Salisbury, Ct. and somewhat frequent in the calcareous regions of central and western New York; also in the limy soils of Aroostook County, Maine.

CAREX CASTANEA, alluvial soils and meadows, Salisbury, Ct.; also in Vermont and common in the calcareous regions of Maine.

WOLFFIA COLUMBIANA, surfaces of ponds and pools, Salisbury, Ct. (The tiniest of the *Lemnaceae*, the minute plants floating just at the surface of the water and without rootlets.)

JUGLANS NIGRA, indigenous at North Canaan, Ct. (Reported but unverified from western Massachusetts.)

MORUS RUBRA, frequent in mountain woods, Dutchess County, N. Y.; Salisbury, Ct.; also in southwestern Bennington County, Vt. (Reported but unverified in Massachusetts.)

RANUNCULUS CIRCINATUS, ponds and streams, Salisbury, Ct.; also in Vermont.

TROLLIUS LAXUS, swampy woods and meadows, Cornwall, Ct. (Reported but unverified from the Connecticut Valley in New Hampshire; also from Maine.)

CORYDALIS AUREA, frequent on limestone cliffs and in rocky woods, Dutchess County, N. Y.; also in western Vermont.

HEUCHERA AMERICANA, wooded banks of the Housatonic, Litchfield County, Ct.

RIBES ROTUNDIFOLIUM, rocky woods and hillsides, Dutchess County N. Y.; and Salisbury, Ct.

HYBANTHUS CONCOLOR (Green Violet), very abundant in May "in a cold mountainous woods about a mile from the village of Pine Plains. It was growing very luxuriously — many of the stems being all of three feet in height — and covered several acres of ground almost to the exclusion of other herbaceous plants."

ZIZIA CORDATA "rather common in all our open woods," Pine Plains; also at various stations in Connecticut.

TAENIDIA INTEGERRIMA, frequent in gravelly or rocky woods, Dutchess County, N. Y.; wooded banks of Housatonic River, Ct.; also in western Vermont.

POLEMONIUM VAN BRUNTIAE, swamps, Salisbury, Ct.; also western Vermont.

VALERIANA ULIGINOSA "very abundant in some of the marshes and swamps about Pine Plains," over an area 12 miles in diameter, one of the stations within three miles of the Massachusetts-Connecticut line, growing in swamps with *Salix candida* and *Betula pumila*; also locally in Vermont. (Abundant in the calcareous swamps of northern Maine and locally across central and western New York.)

Surely some, if not all, of these characteristic plants of the calcareous regions are to be found in Berkshire County. All of them are in good condition for collecting in late May or June and a party of 15 or 20 enthusiastic explorers should in two or three days of active raking of southern Berkshire bring them to light. The best regions are naturally the least accessible by railroad or trolley, consequently, it is hoped that those who have automobiles will feel ready to put them at the disposal of the Club in order to reach the more remote areas away from railroads.

A notice stating the headquarters of the Club for this trip and other details as to times of trains, etc., will be prepared later. All who wish this final notice should notify R. C. BEAN, 48 Emerson Street, Wakefield, Mass.

M. L. FERNALD, <i>Chairman</i>	} <i>Committee on</i> <i>Field Excursions.</i>
R. C. BEAN	
C. H. KNOWLTON	

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